



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESSES



Governor Whitmer is committed to supporting small businesses as Michigan continues growing its economy.

### Putting small businesses first

- Ushered in [fastest small business growth](#) in 23 years and a [24% increase](#) in revenue, making Michigan [one of the Top 10 states for business](#).
- Signed a [bipartisan tax cut](#), [reduced tax burden](#), and [increased tax flexibility](#) for small businesses, lowering their costs and enabling them to grow and create jobs.
- Signed an executive directive to review ways state government can [speed up state permitting](#), make Michigan more competitive
- Signed an executive directive to increase [state procurement and contracts](#) with small and geographically disadvantaged businesses.
- Launched [MI New Economy](#), a \$2.1 billion plan to grow Michigan's middle class, support small businesses, and invest in communities.
- Proclaimed [Small Business Week](#) in Michigan and declared [Small Business Saturday](#), urging Michiganders to buy locally on Saturdays throughout the year.
- Signed a bipartisan [supplemental budget](#) investing \$75 million to support small business smart zones, business accelerators, and entrepreneurial activities.
- Leveraged federal funding to launch a [\\$10 million partnership](#) to support women, veterans and entrepreneurs of color in accessing microloans.
- [Protected](#) federal funding for small businesses in 28 counties and census tracts through the federal HUBZone program fueling small business growth in underutilized areas.
- [Proposed](#) investments in regional economic development, small and micro businesses, community revitalization efforts, and a fund for special events like the NFL Draft.
- [Established](#) the small business support hubs program to help small business owners with the resources they need to create jobs and grow the economy.
- [Signed](#) legislation supporting small businesses by increasing democratization in community development.

### Connecting small businesses with talent

- Funded programs like [Reconnect](#), [Futures for Frontliners](#), and [Michigan Opportunity Scholarship](#) to provide hundreds of thousands of Michiganders tuition-free higher education or skills training that leads to a high-skill, good-paying job.
- Invested in [Going Pro](#) to help businesses up-skill in-house talent, secured resources for talent retention in key industries, and expanded partnerships with union training facilities.
- Invested in future talent through [STEM Forward](#), connecting Michigan's higher education students in STEM fields to internships with a wage-match at Michigan businesses.

### Helping families get back to work

- Signed a [\\$1.4 billion investment in childcare](#) to expand access to high-quality childcare, support childcare businesses, and invest in childcare professionals.
- Expanded access to free preschool for [22,000+ more four-year olds](#) through the high-quality, homegrown Great Start Readiness Program.
- Expanded access to affordable childcare for [150,000 more children](#). Now, a family of four earning up to \$55,500 is eligible for free or low-cost childcare.
- Launched [MI Tri-Share Childcare Program](#), an innovative childcare program that partners with business to lower costs of care for families in 59 counties.
- [Proposed](#) Pre-K for all, saving families \$10,000 and helping parents get back to work.

### Supporting small businesses through COVID-19

- Launched [23 economic relief programs](#) providing over \$240 million in vital economic support to small businesses.
- Provided \$100 million through the [Small Business Restart Program](#) to help restaurants and other place-based businesses cover costs with grants up to \$20,000.
- Helped communities [revitalize commercial districts](#) with 30 grants to 307 businesses.
- [Expanded Work Share](#) to preserve over 110,000 jobs and help nearly 2,600 employers retain workers.

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